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### A NEW WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE FROM LOWER CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

BY

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Among mammals recently acquired by the San Diego Society of Natural History are five specimens of white-footed mice of the widely ranging *Peromyscus maniculatus* group, from a small island in Gonzaga Bay, Lower California. These were believed to be of especial interest by Mr. Laurence M. Huey, Curator of Birds and Mammals, who has generously forwarded them for our use in connection with general studies of the mammals of that region. The specimens are assigned to a new subspecies here described.

#### *Peromyscus maniculatus hueyi* subsp. nov.

#### GONZAGA BAY WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE

*Type*.—From a small unnamed island in Gonzaga Bay, east coast of Lower California, Mexico (latitude about 29° 50'). No. 8861, ♂ adult, collection San Diego Society of Natural History, collected by A. W. Anthony, November 21, 1930. Original number 1172.

*Distribution*.—Known only from the type locality.

*General characters*.—A very dark subspecies, most closely allied to *Peromyscus maniculatus coolidgei* of southern Lower California and the adjacent mainland, but contrasting strongly in darker color; skull differing in slight details. Also nearly related to *P. m. sonoriensis*, but much darker with skull somewhat lighter

in structure. Similar in color to dark phase of *P. m. gambeli*, but upper parts suffused with gray instead of brownish as usual in that form, and cranial characters distinctive.

*Color*.—*Type* (fresh pelage): Upper parts in general buffy grayish heavily mixed with black, the black predominating over dorsum; cheeks, shoulders, and sides lighter owing to thinning of dark hairs; under parts white, pure white to roots of hairs on lips and chin, the basal color plumbeous across abdomen; outer sides of forearms and hind legs buffy grayish or brownish, becoming abruptly white on feet; ears clothed with short black hairs, the margins narrowly but distinctly edged with white; tail sharply bicolor, black above, white below.

*Skull*.—Closely resembling that of *P. m. coolidgei*, but rather flat, the zygomata slender, and usually less squarely spreading anteriorly; premaxillae usually more attenuate, less deeply interdigitating with frontals; rostrum moderately heavy as in *coolidgei*. Similar to that of *P. m. sonoriensis* but somewhat lighter in structure. Compared with that of *P. m. gambeli* the skull is slightly larger with heavier rostrum.

*Measurements*.—*Type*: Total length, 168 mm.; tail vertebrae, 75; hind foot, 20. Average of four adult topotypes: 165 (160-170); 76 (68-83); 21 (20-21). *Skull* (type): Greatest length, 25.3; condylobasal length, 23.3; zygomatic breadth, 12.8; interorbital constriction, 4.2; interparietal, 9.2 x 2; length of nasals, 9.5; maxillary tooththrow (alveoli), 4.2.

*Remarks*.—Forms of *Peromyscus maniculatus* are generally distributed on the islands along the Pacific coast of Lower California, but have not hitherto been found on the islands off the east coast in the Gulf of California. In view of the fact that most small mammals from the arid desert regions of the northeastern part of the Peninsula are very pale, in keeping with the tone of their usual environment, the dark color of *P. m. hueyi* is surprising. The type was taken on the same day as the type of the canyon mouse, *Peromyscus crinitus pallidissimus*, recently described by Huey from the same island,<sup>1</sup> as characterized by extreme pallor. The new form is not very unlike some of the darker examples of *P. m. clementis* and *P. m. catalinae* in external appearance, but the skulls indicate no close relationship. Specimens of *P. m. sonoriensis* from San Felipe, on the mainland north of Gonzaga Bay are darker than usual in that form and suggest possible gradation toward *hueyi*.

*Specimens examined*.—Five, from the type locality.

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<sup>1</sup> Trans. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. VI, No. 26, pp. 389-390, Aug. 28, 1931.